

BOROUGH AND PORT OF CARDIGAN

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1956

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Malyn Thomas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER.

J. Rhys Davies, M.R.C.S.(Eng.); L.R.C.P.(Lond.).

BOROUGH SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

R.D. Morris, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



BOROUGH OF CARDIGAN.

Mayors

1955/56

Councillor J.T. Davies

1956/57

Councillor J.E. Jones

Committee dealing with Public Health matters.

(a) Public Health Committee - 16 members

Chairman

1955/56 and 1956/57 - Alderman R.Ll. Peregrine

(b) Housing Committee - 16 members

Chairman

1955/56

Councillor J.T. Davies

1956/57

Councillor J.T. Davies

(c) Plans Committee - 16 members

Chairman

1955/56 and 1956/57 - Councillor G.J. James

Council Offices,
Guildhall,
Cardigan.

Tel: Cardigan 2641

To the Mayor, the Chairman of the Health Committee,
Aldermen and Members of the Borough Council.

PREFACE

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1956. This is my first Annual Report since I took up office as your Medical Officer of Health on the 1st October, 1956.

The number of registered live births for the year was sixty-seven, an increase of seventeen on the previous year. Four of these were illegitimate. There were no registered stillbirths in contrast with six in 1955. There were two infant deaths registered during the year. I am happy to report that there were no maternal deaths as a result of childbirth.

The number of registered deaths was forty-nine, five fewer than in 1955. Heart disease accounted for twelve deaths, vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes) for ten, and cancer in its various forms for a further five. There were no cases of accidental death or suicide.

In the field of infectious diseases one notes that there were seventy-eight cases of Scarlet Fever. These were notified during the period January to March when there was a similar outbreak in the surrounding rural area of South Cardiganshire. There were four cases of death from Tuberculosis during 1956 - this is a high figure considering that the number dying from this once dreaded disease has diminished to such a marked extent in the country as a whole. It is, however, reassuring to note that only one new case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

From the report of Mr. R.D. Morris, the Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, you will see that there are fifty-six houses in the Borough which are unfit for human habitation. I feel compelled to mention the forbidding and insanitary building known as Albro Castle, St. Dogmaels. Seven families dwell here at present under conditions that compare unfavourably with any that I have encountered in the slum areas of industrial regions. There is a potential danger to the health of the inhabitants, the children especially, and we must face up to the fact that it is our duty and responsibility to rehouse these families. Some could, I feel, be rehoused in Council houses, and the remainder placed in older property that could be acquired by the Council.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council for the very kind welcome you have extended to me. I would also like to state that the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspector have given me every assistance in the performance of my duties.



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SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,928
Population (Census 1951)	3,497
Population (Registrar General's Mid-Year 1956)	3,470
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1956	£42,153
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1957	£40,892
Sum represented by a penny rate 1956/57	£177
Estimated sum to be obtained by a penny rate 1957/58 ..	£163

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births	63	29	34
Leg:	4	1	3
Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of registered still births	-	-	-
Leg:	-	-	-
Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year ..	1	-	1
Leg:	1	-	1
Illeg:	1	-	1
Number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks ..	1	-	1
Leg:	1	-	1
Illeg:	1	-	1
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth ...	-	-	-
Number of registered deaths	49	23	26
Areal comparability factor for births	1.00		
Areal comparability factor for deaths	1.00		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Registrar General's</u>		<u>Number of deaths</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	2	1	3
2	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	1	1
3	Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8	Measles.....	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1	-	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	2	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-	-
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	-	2	2
15	Leukemia, aleukemia.....	-	-	-
16	Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	3	7	10
18	Coronary disease, angina.....	6	2	8
19	Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	-	-
20	Other heart disease.....	2	2	4
21	Other circulatory disease.....	-	-	-
22	Influenza.....	-	1	1
23	Pneumonia.....	-	1	1
24	Bronchitis.....	1	-	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	-	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations.....	-	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	5	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34	All other accidents.....	-	-	-
35	Suicide.....	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
Total		23	26	49

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

These are essentially the same as in 1955. The details are as follows:-

- (a) No ante-natal or post-natal clinic is held in the area. Expectant and nursing mothers receive medical advice from their own doctors.
- (b) An infant welfare clinic is held fortnightly at the C.P. School.
- (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by the district nurses who are also State Registered Nurses.
- (d) A health visitor is stationed in the town.
- (e) Home nursing is in the hands of the two district nurses resident in the borough.
- (f) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own medical attendant but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by medical officers of the local health authority.
- (g) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist in periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority. Care and after-care is in the hands of the health visitor and the district nurse. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physician's health visitor.
- (h) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally.

Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria		...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary)	...		...	...	...	...	Nil
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Meningococcal meningitis			...	...	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..		...	...	...	...	Nil
Paratyphoid fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influenzal)	..					...	1
Polomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	...	...	...	...	1
Relapsing fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the sex and age distribution of the new cases notified during the year.

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 - 74	-	-	-	-
75+	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	1	-	-	-

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was required to be taken under the above enactment during the year.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

In accordance with the International Sanitary Regulations, (World Health Regulations No.2) to which Great Britain is a signatory power, a number of international vaccination certificates of persons residing in Cardigan and proceeding to certain overseas destinations were authenticated in the prescribed manner.

DULYN THOMAS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Cardiganshire Joint District Councils,
Swyddfa'r Sir,
ABERYSTWYTH.
June, 1956.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Borough of Cardigan

Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

(1) Water.

The Borough derives its mains water supply from two sources viz.

CRUGEFA
BRYN

The CRUGEFA source consists of a number of land springs which have their outfall on land surrounding Crugefa, Crugdu, Tanner's Hall and Pantydwr. The water is collected into a number of brick chambers constructed at the sources and gathered into a common collecting chamber below Crugefa.

The source at the BRYN is again derived from land springs collected into a common collecting chamber.

The yield from the CRUGEFA sources feeds into the High Level reservoir which has a storage capacity of 70,000 gallons. The low level reservoir, having a capacity of 30,000 gallons acts mainly as a balancing tank, being fed by the overflow from the high level reservoir and from the BRYN source during times of minimum draw-off from this supply. Both systems are intercommunicated - the high level zone of the Borough being supplied from the high level reservoir and the lower areas from the low level reservoir.

During the Summer period, parts of the Borough experienced a serious water shortage. This was due to the drying out of the springs at the Bryn source due to prolonged drought conditions. The supply remained intermittent for a period of some 5 months.

Routine bacteriological examinations indicate that the public supply has been wholesome in quality. The purity of the supply is maintained by means of continuous chlorinations.

During the year the New Mill and the Blaenwaun schemes were carried out providing a mains water supply for a total of 10 dwellings.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The existing sewers were efficiently maintained and a number of improvements were carried out.

A section of box sewer in St. Mary's Street which was partly collapsed was replaced by a piped sewer.

(3) Pollution of Rivers Etc.

It has not been found necessary to take any formal action with regard to pollution of rivers or streams in the area. There are no offensive trades in existence within the Borough.

There has been a marked improvement in the practice of dumping refuse into rivers and streams. Warning notices were erected reminding the public that such acts were offences liable to prosecution.

(4) Closet Accommodation.

A number of conversions to water carriage system were carried out during the year.

Notices requiring suitable sanitary accommodation in catering establishments were complied with.

(5) Public Cleansing.

The service is covered by direct labour over the whole of the Borough and mechanical transport is used. Collection is made twice weekly in all the built-up areas and once a fortnight in the outlying areas. This arrangement is satisfactory and the work well organized. Despite regular collection however, persons persist in depositing refuse on the sides of streets and on open spaces.

All the highways receive weekly cleansing, a contribution towards the cost being made by the County Council in respect of the main roads. The refuse is disposed of by tipping at the dump on the site of the old clay pits. Controlled tipping is now operated while constant precautions are taken against vermin and rat infestation.

(6) Housing.

A number of sub standard houses in the Borough were improved as a result of the service of notices under the Housing Acts whilst a number of other dwellings were improved by the making of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

The Council are to consider 'official representations' in respect of an area containing 4 dwellings with a view to their inclusion in a Clearance Area under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

New dwellings completed during the year totalled 46 of which 40 were completed by the Local Authority and 6 by private owners.

(7) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Catering premises, bakehouses and food premises were inspected during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. A number of notices requiring compliance with the Regulations were complied with.

(8) Schools.

The sanitary accommodation and water supply for the schools are satisfactory.

(9) Public Conveniences.

Plans were approved and a site acquired for the erection of public conveniences in the Fairfield. The erection of public conveniences at Bridgend was not proceeded with.

(10) Camping Sites.

No licences for Moveable Dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were issued during the year. A number of caravans were, however, stationed for temporary periods on various open sites in the town. These dwellings invariably give rise to nuisance and should not be allowed on sites within the built up area of the Borough.

(11) Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises as the result of infectious disease was carried out in 27 premises.

(12) Disinfestation.

Disinfestation was carried out in thirteen premises during the year for the eradication of bugs, cockroaches and ants.

(13) Rats and Mice Destruction (Pest Act, 1949).

The Council have in their employ a part-time Rodent Operator. Sewer treatment, involving baiting of approximately 79 manholes, is carried out twice a year - the sewers are reasonably free from infestation.

Treatment has been carried out in a number of private houses. Complaints are not numerous, they are all followed by inspection and treatment as necessary.

(14) Slaughterhouse.

The number of visits to carry out meat inspection during the year was 318.

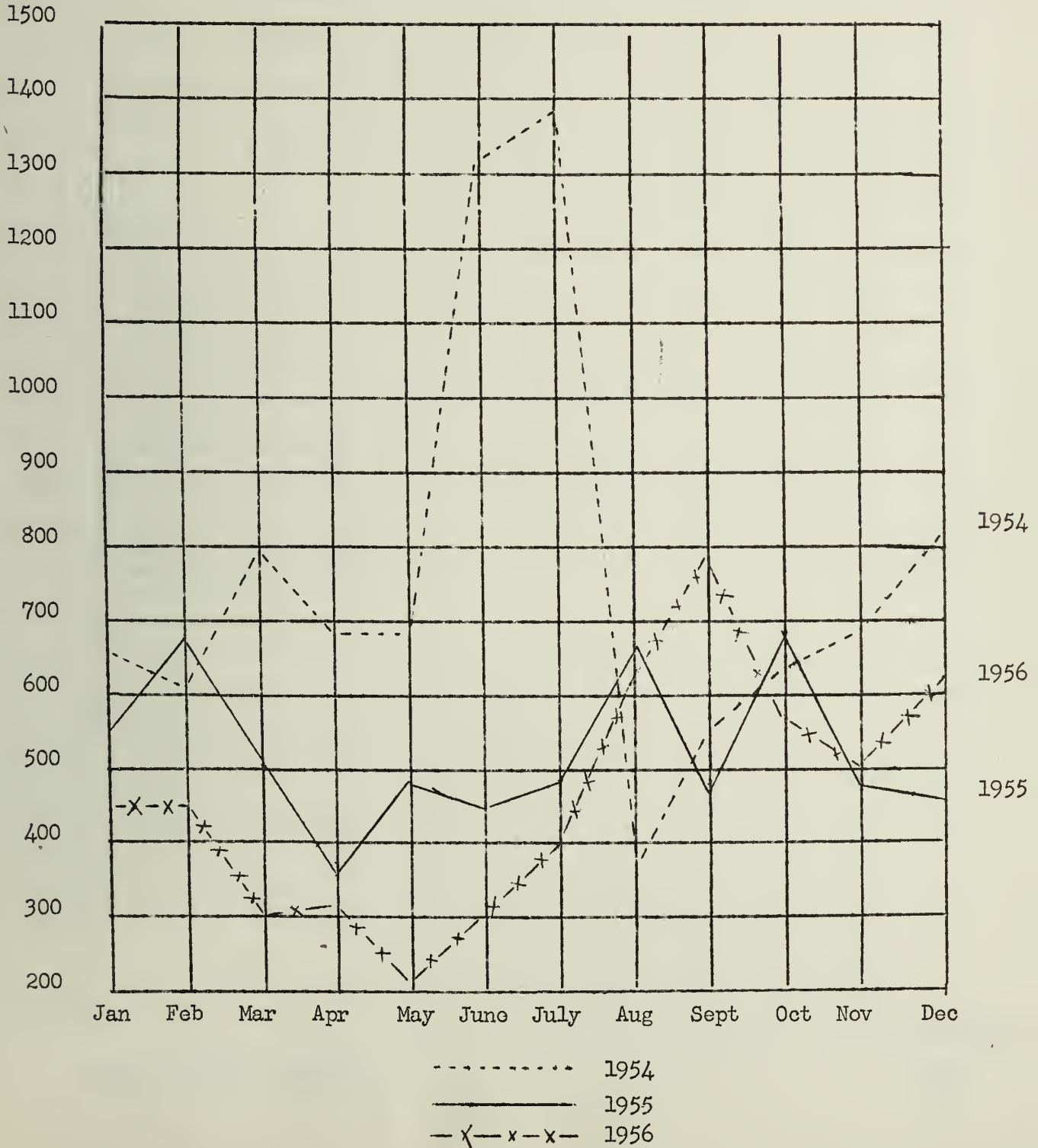
The figures again show a drop in the total animals killed. Figures showing killings from 1951 to 1956 are produced for comparison.

The graph indicates the number of animals killed during each of the last three years.

TOTAL KILLINGS

(including Cattle, Calves,
Sheep and Pigs).

1951	.....	7461
1952	.....	8072
1953	.....	8483
1954	.....	9230
1955	.....	6310
1956	.....	5603



(14). Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

Parts 1 and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1. (Inspections).

Premises	M/c Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	M/c Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	7	10	2	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	28	23	6	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	4	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		37	37	8	Nil	

Factory Acts, 1937 and 1948. (Continued)

Part 2. (Defects).

Particulars (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c Line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Inadoquate ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
TOTAL		16	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Part VIII (Outwork)

There are no outworkers within the Borough.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts.	123
Number of new W.C.'s (including conversion of Privies).	9
Number of Flushing-Cisterns fixed.	7
Number of Defective Iron Traps replaced by Gullies.	3
Number of cases of Infectious Diseases investigated.	17
Number of Houses disinfected.	27
Number of Houses supplied with disinfectant.	8
Number of Visits to Bakehouses.	21
Number of Visits to Workshops.	19
Number of Visits to Public Slaughterhouse.	318
Number of Samples of Milk taken.	Nil
Number of Samples of Water taken for Bacteriological examination.	8
Number found to be unsatisfactory.	2

MEAT INSPECTION.

The animals slaughtered and inspected at the Slaughterhouse during the year were as follows:-

<u>Cardigan Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of animals killed	750	19	4255	579	5603
Total weight of meat condemned					1282 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat and meat products condemned (outside Slaughterhouse).

Canned meat and meat products	231 lbs.
Canned fruit	214 lbs.
Canned orange juice	15 lbs.
Fish	8 lbs.
Cheese	26 lbs.
Cooking Fat	5 lbs.
Sweets	4 lbs.
Cake	2 lbs.
Potatoes	32 lbs.
	<u>537 lbs.</u>

Bananas	100 stems
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Number of tins condemned	<u>369.</u>
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CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Number of Food Preparation Premises	16
Number of General Provision Stores	32
Number of Fishmongers and Greengrocers	6
Number of Bakeries	5
Number of School Canteens	4
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>63</u>

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 - Food and Drugs Act, 1955	13
Number of inspections of registered food premises	47

Condemned Foods

Condemned food is collected by the Council and disposed of at the Borough refuse tip.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

(a) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	56
(b) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
(c) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (1) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works..	Nil
(11) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil
(d) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works ...	33
(e) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of informal notices	19
(f) The number of demolition or closing orders made	Nil
(g) The number of houses demolished	Nil

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	169
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	181
(c) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	77

NUMBER OF REPORTS OF BREACH OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS.

(a) Because of disease amongst the animals	Nil
(b) Because of disease amongst persons handling the milk	Nil

R.D. MORRIS, M.Inst.B.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Borough Surveyor's Office,
 Guildhall,
 Cardigan.

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Not one merchant vessel entered the Port of Cardigan during the Year 1956. Constant vigilance was exercised but no action was necessary.

The Port Sanitary Medical Officer has no Isolation Hospital into which to place a case of infectious disease should such occur among the crew of an incoming vessel. The nearest Isolation Hospital is Pembroke Dock or Aberystwyth.

J. RHYS DAVIES, M.R.C.S. (Eng.); L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER.

1 Belmont,
Cardigan.

